Interview Summary

1.   A proposed amendment was submitted for applicant's consideration. Examiner

suggested Applicant to amend claims as shown in the Examiner's Amendment below in

order to place the application in condition for allowance.

Examiner's Amendment

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with the Applicant's Representative, Gregory R. Lunt (Reg. No. 57,354), on 02 June

2008.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 8, line 5 of the specification as below:

The computer 110 typically includes a variety of computer-readable media.

Computer-readable media can be any available media that can be accessed by the

computer 110 and includes both volatile and nonvolatile media, and removable and

non-removable media. By way of example, and not limitation, computer-readable

media may comprise computer storage media and communication media. Computer

storage media includes both volatile and nonvolatile, removable and non-removable

media implemented in any method or technology for storage of information such as

computer-readable instructions, data structures, program modules or other data.

Computer storage media includes, but is not limited to, RAM, ROM, EEPROM, flash

memory or other memory technology, CD-ROM, digital versatile disks (DVD) or

other optical disk storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage

or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium which can be used to store

the desired information and which can accessed by the computer 110.

Communication media typically embodies computer-readable instructions, data

structures, program modules or other data in ~~a modulated data signal such as a~~

~~carrier wave or~~ other transport ~~mechanism~~ <u>mechanisms</u> and includes any

information delivery media. The term "modulated data signal" means a signal that

has one or more of its characteristics set or changed in such a manner as to encode

information in the signal. By way of example, and not limitation, communication

media includes wired media such as a wired network or direct-wired connection, and

wireless media such as acoustic, RF, infrared and other wireless media.

Combinations of the any of the above should also be included within the scope of

computer-readable media.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 16, and 33, and cancel claim 44 as shown below:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computer network, a method of automatically and transparently handling WebDAV server and file access requests, the method comprising:

maintaining at an I/O manager a predetermined, stored priority order that indicates which of a plurality of redirectors has precedence to handle a WebDAV I/O request, wherein a plurality of suitably configured redirectors respond to the WebDAV I/O request, each redirector being equally capable of redirecting the received WebDAV I/O request;

receiving at the I/O manager a the WebDAV I/O request initiated from an application program, wherein the WebDAV I/O request indicates a path and filename of a remote file accessible via WebDAV;

polling available redirectors to determine which redirectors are configured to handle the application program's WebDAV I/O file request, each redirector suitably configured to handle the WebDAV I/O request including appropriate functionality for receiving and redirecting WebDAV I/O file requests to corresponding WebDAV server computer systems that store the remote files;

receiving responses from a the plurality of suitably configured redirectors, each suitably configured redirector being equally capable of redirecting the received WebDAV I/O file request;

determining from the stored priority order which of the plurality of suitably configured redirectors has precedence to handle the WebDAV I/O file request;

based on the determination, requesting a local file system of the redirector determined to have precedence to create the file in response to the WebDAV I/O file request, downloading the file to a local cache of the redirector's file system, and returning a file handle corresponding to the file in the local cache to the application program;

providing access to the file in the local cache of the file system via the file handle; and

receiving a request to close the file via the file handle, and when received, uploading the file from the local cache of the file system to the WebDAV server;

determining that the redirector determined to have precedence is configured to handle all similar WebDAV I/O requests to a network share; and

bypassing any redirector polling for subsequent requests directed to the network share.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of automatically and transparently handling WebDAV server and file access requests, the method comprising:

maintaining at a local application programming interface layer a predetermined, stored priority order that indicates which of a plurality of redirectors has precedence to handle a WebDAV I/O request, wherein a plurality of suitably configured redirectors respond to the WebDAV I/O request, each redirector being equally capable of redirecting the received WebDAV I/O request;

receiving at the local application programming interface layer a WebDAV

application I/O request comprising a WebDAV Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)

indicating a path and filename of a remote file accessible via WebDAV;

polling available redirectors to determine which redirectors are configured

to handle the WebDAV URI, each redirector suitably configured to handle the

WebDAV application I/O request including appropriate functionality for receiving

and redirecting WebDAV URI requests to corresponding WebDAV server

computer systems that store the remote files;

receiving responses from a the plurality of suitably configured redirectors,

each suitably configured redirector being equally capable of redirecting the

received WebDAV URI request;

determining from the stored priority order which of the plurality of

responding redirectors has precedence to handle the WebDAV I/O URI request ;

and

if determining that the specified share and file are accessible;

based on the determination, handling the request, including: , based on

the determination,

requesting a local file system of the redirector determined to have

precedence to create the file in response to the WebDAV I/O URI request;

;

downloading the file to a local cache of the redirector's file system; ;

and

returning a file handle corresponding to the file in the local cache to

the WebDAV application program;

determining that the redirector determined to have precedence is

configured to handle all similar WebDAV I/O requests to a network share; and

bypassing any redirector polling for subsequent requests directed to the

network share.

33. (Currently Amended) In a computer network, a system including a processor

and a memory for automatically and transparently handling WebDAV server and file

access requests, the system comprising:

an application program that issues WebDAV-related requests, including at

least one request having a WebDAV Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)

corresponding to path and filename of a remote file stored on a WebDAV server;

a WebDAV redirector, the WebDAV redirector configured to respond to

polls used to determine which redirectors are configured to handle the

application's WebDAV-related request, each redirector being suitably configured

to handle the WebDAV I/O request including appropriate functionality for

receiving and redirecting WebDAV I/O file requests to corresponding WebDAV

server computer systems that store the remote files;

an I/O manager configured to perform the following:

that maintains maintain a predetermined, stored priority order that

indicates which of a plurality of redirectors has precedence to handle a

WebDAV I/O request, wherein ~~a~~ the plurality of suitably configured

redirectors respond to the WebDAV I/O request, each redirector being

equally capable of redirecting the received WebDAV I/O file request, and

that receives responses from ~~a~~ the plurality of suitably configured

redirectors~~, each suitably configured redirector being equally capable of~~

~~redirecting the received WebDAV I/O file request~~; and

~~determining~~ determine from the stored priority order which of the

plurality of suitably configured redirectors has precedence to handle the

WebDAV I/O request and indicating that the WebDAV redirector locally

handling each request corresponding to the WebDAV server can be

handled locally and was determined to have precedence to create the file

in response to the WebDAV I/O request, ~~or~~ and communicat~~ing~~e with the

WebDAV server to handle requests that cannot be handled locally;

determine that the redirector determined to have precedence is

configured to handle all similar WebDAV I/O requests to a network share;

and

bypass any redirector polling for subsequent requests directed to

the network share.

44. (Cancelled).

Allowable Subject Matter

4.   Claims 1-18, 21-24, and 26-43 are allowed. The following is an examiner's

statement of reasons for allowance: In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification

and the authorized Examiner's Amendment on 02 June 2008, the Examiner finds the

claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

5.   In regards to statutory subject matter, the Examiner interprets the claim language

of "a system including a processor and a memory" of claim 33 to be hardware as recited

in the applicant's specification on page 6, lines 13-23 which states, "Examples of well

known computing systems, environments, and/or configurations that may be suitable for

use with the invention include, but are not limited to, personal computers, server

computers, hand-held or laptop devices, tablet devices, multiprocessor systems,

microprocessor-based systems, set top boxes, programmable consumer electronics,

network PCs, minicomputers, mainframe computers, distributed computing

environments that include any of the above systems or devices, and the like."

6.   **Serlet et al. (6,842,770)** teaches a system and method by which users via

programs on one computer may seamlessly access files remotely stored on other

computers that run a well known file access protocol. All programs running on a

personal computer may access remote files as easily and in the same manner as

accessing files on the personal computer's file system without requiring any changes to

the program's method of communicating with the computer's existing file system using

http protocol and WebDAV. An operating system extension and an application level

network access program are provided. The operating system extension receives file

system requests for remote files from the operating system that were issued according

to a well-known application program interface **(Serlet abstract, figure 1, and**

corresponding text).

7.   **Oehrke et al. (6,735,631)** teaches a network and method of providing near 100%

availability of services is provided. According to one feature, redirectors are

implemented to direct network traffic to any of two or more application processors

providing the same service. The redirectors are provided in data paths at network

access points and at data centers with the application processors. The redirectors re-

route traffic to other application processors when one processor is unavailable and load

balance between available processors. To load balance, the redirectors collect various

network management statistics from the processors to determine the most responsive

processor for receiving traffic. The various network management statistics are shared

among the redirectors for efficient load balancing **(Oehrke, abstract, figure 2, and**

corresponding text).

8.   However, the prior art of record fail to teach or suggest individually or in

combination the claimed limitations, determining that the redirector determined to have

precedence is configured to handle all similar WebDAV I/O requests to a network share;

and bypassing any redirector polling for subsequent requests directed to the network

share, correlating to page 18, lines 5-13 of the applicant's specification which states,

"The response will indicate to the MUP 206 that the WebDAV kernel redirector 212 is

capable of handling file I/O requests directed to that share, and provide the information

necessary to bypass the polling operation for subsequent requests directed to that

share."

9.   These limitations, in conjunction with the other limitations in the independent

claims 1, 16, and 33 are not specifically disclosed or remotely suggested in the prior art

of record. Therefore, claims 1-18, 21-24, and 26-43 are allowed.

10.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Ranodhi Serrao whose telephone number is (571) 272-

7967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/R. N. S./

Examiner, Art Unit 2141

6/23/2008

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2144